

**REMARKS**

By way of this preliminary amendment, the specification has been amended to include a reference to the parent application in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 120. The priority claim was made in the declaration filed with the application and is properly reflected on the official filing receipt.

*Applicant respectfully notes that the amended claims as reflected in the substitute sheets filed via the Article 34 amendment (and filed herewith in a substitute specification for the convenience of the examiner), have been held patentable by the USPTO in the international proceedings.*

*Accordingly, this case must be taken up out of order for examination and allowance.*

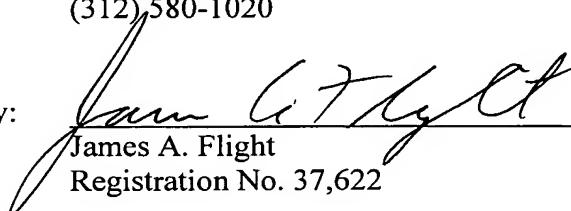
It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 28, 2006